

● **FINAL DEADLINE for “Grand-fathering” Telecom Administrator Certification.**

Contractors who were registered on June 8, 2000 under chapter 18.27 RCW and engaged in the business of installing or maintaining telecommunications wiring in Washington may designate certain individuals to receive a telecommunications administrator certificate without examination. The contractor must qualify these individuals for this status when they make the required change from “registered under RCW 18.27” to “licensed under RCW 19.28.” **Before July 1, 2001**, the telecommunications contractor and designated administrator applicant(s) must submit a complete telecommunications contractor application and administrator application(s) in order for the administrator designee(s) to be “grandfathered” and receive a telecommunications administrator certificate without examination.

● **Required Lighting Outlets in Dwelling Unit Storage or Equipment Spaces**

NEC 210-70(a)(3) requires lighting in attics, under floor spaces, utility rooms, and basements when the spaces are used for storage or contain equipment requiring servicing. The spaces under stairs in dwelling units is not considered an under floor space. Lights installed in these areas to facilitate the servicing of equipment must be installed so the equipment is lighted. Lights must be controlled by a switch. The switch may be located on the light, but if the light is located away from the normal point of entry to the area, a switch is also required at that point of entry. If adjacent lighting immediately outside of a stairwell space will provide adequate illumination then the intent of the Code is met and a light is not required inside the stairwell.

● **New WAC Requirements for Electrician Renewal**

An individual’s initial electrician certificate of competency normally requires renewal every three years (review WAC 296-401A-130). The renewal package must provide accurate evidence of at least eight hours of approved CEU’s for each year of the certification period including at least eight hours on the latest National Electrical Code changes. If the renewal applicant pays the required fees, but has not completed the required hours of CEU’s the **certificate will be placed in an inactive status. When in inactive status, the individual cannot work as a journeyman or specialty electrician.** Any individual wanting to work in the electrical construction trade who is in inactive status must obtain an electrical training certificate and work under the supervision of a certified journeyman or specialty electrician working in their specialty until the required CEU hours is documented to the department.

The department is not responsible for researching CEU history for electricians (review WAC 296-401A-630 & 640). Credit is not allowed for an approved CEU course taken more than once in the renewal period. If the department determines that course sponsors or renewal applicants have filed inaccurate or false CEU’s, the department will initiate penalty action as outlined in WAC 296.401B.630. New forms allow the renewal applicant to list Washington approved CEU courses on the renewal form. CEU certificate copies must be submitted with the renewal for out of state courses.

Renewal applicants must pay all outstanding final judgments owed to the department before renewal of any certificate. A certificate of competency that has been suspended by the department may be renewed:

- (a) By obtaining and submitting the required hours of CEU’s and remaining in suspended status for the duration of the suspension, or
- (b) Without the required hours of CEU’s and remaining in suspended status for the duration of the suspension. Following the suspension, the certificate will be placed in inactive status as outlined in WAC 296-401B-180, until the required continuing education requirements are met and documented to the department.

**● Becoming a Certified Specialty Electrician (Part 2 of 2)**

**For those individuals with experience in the following specialties: Domestic well (03A), Limited energy (06)-(residential sound experience only), HVAC/refrigeration limited energy system (06A), Nonresidential maintenance (07), Nonresidential lighting maintenance (07A), Residential maintenance (New-07B), and Door, window, gate and similar systems (New-10).**

Individuals with **less than two years** of experience may submit an APPLICATION FOR AN ELECTRICAL TRAINING CERTIFICATE and notarized letter from their employer and claim partial credit towards the full exam qualifying experience. They will be issued a standard first or second-year training certificate and their training files will be credited with the hours equivalent to the months of experience that they have claimed. (For example: 18 months of previous experience would qualify the individual for a second-year training certificate. They would need an additional 1000 hours of experience as a certified trainee working under the supervision of someone that had a specialty electrician certificate, or held a "special third-year training certificate", to qualify for the examination.)

After the applicant demonstrates two years of experience, a letter will be sent by the Department instructing them how to contact the exam contractor (Exterior). The applicant arranges, directly with Exterior, their exam date and location and pays the examination fee. When Exterior notifies the department that the applicant has successfully completed the examination, the Department will issue the appropriate specialty electrician certificate. A specialty electrician certificate is valid for thirty-six months.

Until the examination process is completed, qualifying applicants will receive a "special third-year training certificate" that will be considered to be a temporary specialty electrician certificate for the purposes of working without supervision within the scope of the appropriate specialty identified on the certificate. Holders of this certificate will be allowed to supervise first and second year trainees in the proper ratio for work within the scope of work identified on the "special third-year training certificate".

The "special third-year training certificate" is valid for twelve months from the date of issue. If the applicant successfully completes the examination during this time, they will be issued the appropriate specialty electrician certificate. If they fail to pass the examination in the first twelve-month period, they may renew the "special third-year training certificate" by completing another APPLICATION FOR AN ELECTRICAL TRAINING CERTIFICATE and paying the renewal fee (\$20.75). The second special third-year certificate will be valid no later than June 30, 2002. **If the applicant has not successfully completed the examination by that time, they must renew as a standard second year trainee and work under the supervision of an individual that has passed the examination and holds the appropriate specialty electrician certificate.** The trainee will remain eligible to take the examination and may continue to take the examination until they are successful.

Previous work experience received through this opportunity will not be applicable towards journeyman certification until a trainee successfully completes the specialty electrician examination that the previous experience made possible.

**● Code Question of the Month**

**This month's Code Question:** The definition of a "Qualified Person," according to the NEC is: A) one familiar with the construction and hazards involved, B) one with access to hazardous equipment, C) one with a key to the electric room, D) anyone with access.

**Last month's Code Question:** An examination or treatment chair in a dentist's office is a patient care area and wiring methods installed in a concrete slab to feed this equipment must include an insulated copper equipment grounding conductor along with the branch circuit conductors and be installed in metallic raceway. **The answer is True. [NEC 517-3 Definitions-Patient Care Area, NEC 517-13(a) Patient Care Area, see also ELECTRICAL CURRENTS July 1998 and May 1999.]**